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APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTY. DOCKET NO.
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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2782	8

DATE MAILED: 01/22/98

This is a communication from the examiner in charge of your application.
COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS

OFFICE ACTION SUMMARY

- ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 6/10/96
- ☐ This action is FINAL.
- ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 D.C. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

- ☒ Claim(s) 2-28 is/are pending in the application.
- Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- ☒ Claim(s) 2-4, 6-20 and 22-28 is/are rejected.
- ☒ Claim(s) 5 and 21 is/are objected to.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

- ☒ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
- ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.
- ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- ☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been
- ☐ received.
- ☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____
- ☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

- ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of Reference Cited, PTO-892
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s) 556
- ☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413
- ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES--

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DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is responsive to the Preliminary Amendment B filed June 10, 1996. As requested by the Amendment, claim 1 has been canceled, and claims 2-28 are added. Thus, claims 2-28 are currently pending in the application.

Information Disclosure Statement

An effort was made to consider all of the references cited by the Applicant in paper numbers 5 and 6. Although all of references were previously cited or submitted in the parent case, the parent case could not be obtained in light of the case being processed for publication. Examiner thanks the applicant for substantially complying to Examiner's request for assistance in providing all but a few of the references. All references that were available to the Examiner at the time of this action has been considered as indicated in the PTO-1449 forms. Examiner will consider and provide, in a supplemental action, initialed PTO-1449 form for the missing references as they become available (See PTO-1449, part of paper number 6, uninitiated publications on second page).

Claim Objections

2. Claim 8 is objected to because of the following informalities: The phrase "any one of the group consisting of" is repeated on lines 2 and 3. Appropriate correction is required.

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Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 5 and 21 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

5. Claims 2, 8, 9, 13, 18, 22 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ahuja et al., US Patent 5,471,318.

As to claims 2, Ahuja discloses a teleconferencing system for conducting a teleconference among a plurality of participants (See Abstract) comprising:

a plurality of workstations each having monitors for displaying visual images (Fig. 2, #s 12 and 14. The workstations would inherently have monitors. See also, Col. 4, lines 43-44); and associated AV capture and reproduction capabilities for capturing and reproducing Video images and spoken audio of the participants (Fig. 1, #s 22, 16, 12 and 14, Col. 4, lines 1-5 and lines 29-33); and

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1 a common collaboration initiator for initiating a plurality of types of collaboration among
the plurality of participants (Fig. 2, #s 28 and 38, and Col. 9, lines 61-66), the types of
collaboration being selected from the set consisting of data conferencing (Fig. 1, Data Server, Fig.
2, #s 30, 40 and 50, and Col. 4, lines 20-28), videoconferencing (Fig. 1, Video Server, Fig. 2, #s
32, 42 and 54, and Col. 4, lines 28-33), telephone conferencing (Fig. 1, #22 and Audio Server,
6 and Col. 4, lines 35-38), the sending of faxes (Fig. 1, #20 and Col. 4, lines 47-49) and the sending
of multimedia mail messages (e-mails are well known applications. Col. 4, lines 20-24), the
common collaboration initiator including:

a callee selector for selecting one or more desired participants from among a plurality of
potential participants (Col. 9, lines 45-55 and Col. 7, lines 57-61); and

11 a collaboration type selector for selecting a desired collaboration type from among the
plurality of collaboration type (Col. 9, lines 55-61).

As to claim 8, Ahuja further discloses that the collaboration initiator can be invoked by a
combination of any one of the group consisting of (Col.9, lines 61-66) : a user action for selecting
each of the desired participant (Co. 9, lines 45-55), a user action for selecting the desired
16 collaboration type (Col. 9, lines 55-57), and if the desired collaboration type is not
videoconferencing or telephone conferencing, additional user action for selecting information to
be sent to at least one of the desired participant (Col. 9, 55-61 and Col. 4, lines 16-24).

As to claim 9, Ahuja further discloses that the initiator can be invoked by a user action for
selecting a desired participant and a default collaboration type (Col. 9, lines 45-66).

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1 As to claim 13, Ahuja further discloses a teleconferencing manager for managing a
teleconference among the plurality of participants (Fig. 2, #48 and Col. 5, lines 18-30), and
allowing at least one of the participants access to at least one multimedia service for providing
audio and video signals to be reproduced at the workstation of another of the participants for
receiving Video images and spoken audio of the other participant (Col. 3, lines 30-55).

6 As to claims 18, 22 and 25, these claims are similar in scope as claims 2, 9 and 13, and are
rejected for the same reasons provided above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness
11 rejections set forth in this Office action:

16 (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in
section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are
such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person
having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the
manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 3, 4, 6, 7 and 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable
over **Ahuja et al** in view of **Palmer et al.**, US Patent 5,608,653 and in view of **Baumgartner et**
al., US Patent, 5,195,086.

21 As to claims 3 and 19, Ahuja teaches the invention substantially as claimed as explained
above in connection with rejection of claim 2.

Ahuja does not explicitly teach a participant selector for selecting a participant from a first
set of potential participant and a second set which is a subset of the first set.

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1 Both Palmer and Baumgartner teach teleconferencing systems (See Titles) in which a
directory of potential participants is provided (See Baumgartner, Fig. 18 and Col. 18, lines 57-62,
and Palmer, Fig. 20 and Col. 18, lines 21-42). Examiner takes notice that it is well known in the
art to have a sub-directory structure in which a global list of potential callees is divided into sub-
directories of groups of callees, such as a personal folder in address book of typical e-mail
6 applications.

As to claims 4 and 20, Palmer further teaches a list of callees listed by the names (Palmer,
Fig. 20 and Col. 18, lines 21-42) while Baumgartner teaches a directory which shows the icons
representing the potential callees (Fig. 18 and Col. 18, lines 57-62).

As to claim 6, Palmer teaches a GUI with collaboration type selector buttons (Col. 15, line
11 61 - Col. 18, line 64, See particularly Col. 18, lines 43-64).

As to claim 7, It would be an obvious design choice to place both main and the sublist on
the same window.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was
made to combine the user interface having the directory feature as taught by Palmer and
16 Baumgartner with the multi-media conferencing system taught by Ahuja in order to provide
convenient means for selecting the desired callee.

8. Claims 10-12, 14-17 and 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable
over **Ahuja** et al. in view of **Palmer** et al., US Patent 5,608,653.

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1 As to claims 10, 11, 23 and 24, Ahuja teaches the invention substantially as claimed as explained above in connection with rejection of claim 2.

Ahuja does not explicitly teach an incoming call handling mechanism for handling an attempt by a third participant to join an existing conference between first and second participants, and a call acceptance mechanism for adding the third participant to the conference.

6 Palmer teaches a teleconference system (See Title) where a mechanism is provided for acknowledging and attempt by a third participant to join, and a mechanism to allow the third participant to join the existing conference (See Figs 5A, 5B, and 5C, and Col. 9, lines 11-49).

As to claim 12, Palmer further teaches that up to seven participants can be added in a conference (Col. 2, lines 50-68).

11 It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the "joining" feature as taught by Palmer in the teleconferencing system taught by Ahuja in order to allow conferees to freely join an existing conference (See Ahuja, Col. 2, lines 9-11 and Col. 7, lines 5-9).

9. Claims 14, 15 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

16 Ahuja et al. in view of Ahuja et al. as applied to claims 2 and 9 above, and further in view of Vin et al., "Hierarchical Conferencing Architectures for Inter-Group Multimedia Collaboration", 1991 (cited by the Applicant).

Ahuja et al teaches the invention substantially as claimed, as explained above in connection with rejections of claim 2.

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1 Ahuja et al does not explicitly teach a call selector enabling a participant to select N, the maximum number of calls supported by the AV manager, calls from M possible calls.

 Vin et al. teaches that there is a maximum number of participants, N, which the system can support before the system performance deteriorates, and thus the number of participants should be limited as to not to exceed N (Para. 4.1 and 5.1). It follows, then, that there should be means
6 to limit the number of participant when request to participate exceeds N, and that the decision should be made by someone, such as the presenter (Fig. 6).

 It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a means to limit the maximum number of participants as taught by Vin et al. in the teleconferencing system taught by Ahuja in order to avoid performance degradation of the
11 system.

10. Claims 16, 17, 27 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ahuja et al in view of Bales et al., US Patent 5,373,549.

 Ahuja et al. teaches the invention substantially as claimed as explained above in connection with rejections of claim 2.

16 Ahuja et al. does not explicitly teach the hold selection mechanism or the disconnection mechanism.

 Bales teaches a teleconference system in which a participants disconnect (Col. 8, lines 3-40) or put on hold (Fig. 15, # 1524, 1525, 1526 and 1527 and Col. 9, lines 18-39, Col. 9, lines 60-Col. 10, line 3), a participant (See also Abstract, Figs. 5, 10 and 11).

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Conclusion

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ki Kim whose telephone number is (703) 305-3872, and whose E-mail Address is ki.kim@uspto.gov. The examiner can be normally be reached Monday through Friday from 7:00 AM to 4:00 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Thomas C. Lee, can be reached at (703) 305-9717.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-9600.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
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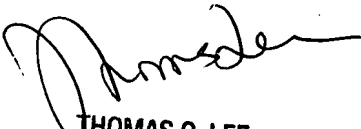
or faxed to:

(703) 308-9051, (for formal communications intended for entry)

Or:

(703)308-5359, (for informal or draft communications, please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).


THOMAS C. LEE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
GROUP 2700

Ki Kim
January 6, 1998